



City of Wichita  
455 N. Main  
Wichita, KS 67202

# Wichita Police Department

December 2006 Monthly Report

## *WPD Graduates New Officers in December Commencement Ceremonies*

### Inside this issue:

Did you know.....	2
Davis-Moore Supports Mounted Unit with Truck	3
Battle of the Badges	4
Celebrity Cookie Challenge	4
Two Families have Happy Christmas	5
Patrol Bureaus spread Christmas Cheer	6
Officers help family of slain Wichita woman	7

The Wichita Police Department has 14 new Officers following the graduation on December 15th of the Fall Class of the 2006 Wichita-Sedgwick County Law Enforcement Training Center. The commencement ceremony, which also graduated nine new Sheriff's deputies and three Airport Safety Officers, was held at the Sedgwick County Extension Center.

During his remarks, Chief Norman Williams stressed the importance of ethical conduct to the new recruits.

"Integrity is the basis for community trust," Williams told the graduates. He urged them to remember that the way they conduct themselves both on and off duty reflects the values of the badge they wear.

Also addressing the graduates and their family and friends were Sedgwick County Sheriff Gary Steed, Training Bureau Commander Captain Darren Moore, Wichita Police Department Class President, Kevin Donohue, and Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office Class President Mistie Vaughn.

Classes for the Spring 2007 recruit class began on January 8th.



**Chief Williams addresses the graduates of the 2006 Fall Class**

### **Graduates of the 2006 Fall Class:**

Officer Jorge Avendano, Officer David Carter, Officer Justin Cole, Officer Travis Cox, Officer Kevin Donohue, Officer Steven Drzymalla, Officer Erik Guzman, Officer Chad Remy, Officer Andre Santos, Officer Casey Slaughter, Officer Jesus Soto, Officer Richard Sparks, Officer Steven Thornton, Officer Mark Villacis, Airport Safety Officer Cedric Daniels, Airport Safety Officer Ramere McCoy, Airport Safety Officer Melvin Villatoro



## Did You Know.....

During the month of December, WPD members received 63 CPRs that were generated internally and 40 that were generated externally.

The Professional Standards Bureau opened three external complaints on members of the Department during December. There were two internal complaints filed against Department employees.

In December, the Awards Committee approved 17 awards. Of those, twelve went to Field Services, two to Investigations and three to Support Services.

In December Officer Lloyd held the yearly shoplifting prevention class for the stores in Towne East Square. Towne East Security Officer Chris Viles sent out a letter to all of the 140+ merchants in the mall about the meeting. Officer Lloyd provided them with a shoplifting prevention guide. Detective Crumley, of the Larceny Section, talked about the differences in a misdemeanor and a felony theft, as well as the law on prior convictions. Ms. Viles spoke about the malls policies on shoplifting and how they will assist the merchant. The topics of counterfeit money and check forgeries were also covered.

On December 12<sup>th</sup> Officer Inkelaar spoke to a 4th grade class at L'Ouverture Elementary School in reference to committing a crime and the consequences of their actions. The presentation was completed after one of the students in the class was caught stealing from other students.

On December 16th Officers Long and Mallard attended Envision's annual "Breakfast with the Grinch" at Willie C's, 656 S. West Street. Envision is a non-profit organization providing assistance to children who are blind or have limited vision. The officers brought child ID kits, stickers, activity books, and the stuffed animals that had accumulated at the West Station. The stuffed animals were a huge hit due to the tactile nature of visually impaired children. The officers handed out 450 child ID kits, 450 activity books and 400 stuffed animals.

In December officers were dispatched to the Marriott Hotel at 9100 E. Corporate Hills reference to a guest using a stolen credit card to obtain a room. Upon investigating, officers located several individuals in the room. Officers were able to determine that the credit card was stolen from Andover earlier in the day. The suspects also used the stolen credit card to purchase several items at various stores in Wichita before using it at the Marriott. Four suspects were taken into custody for the unlawful use of the credit card. A two-year-old girl was taken into protective custody when drugs and paraphernalia were located in the room and on the mother of the child.

In December Officer Cox conducted a tour of the Patrol East facility to 15 Cub Scouts and their sponsors and a tour to 15 Tiger Cubs.



On December 12<sup>th</sup> Officer Demby assisted in the Scared Straight Program where Officer Demby spoke to students in the anger management program. Officer Demby also monitored speakers that were brought in from the Sedgwick County Jail. All students that participated had permission from their parents.



On December 12<sup>th</sup> Officer Biagini accompanied a group of students to a Topeka women's prison for a tour of the facility. The students were part of East High Youth Court. Officer Biagini funded the trip through the Wichita Crime Commission.

December 4<sup>th</sup> Officer Boone conducted three assemblies, one for each grade level, on Gang activity in schools. The program included providing information about the reality that gang activity holds back success in young people's lives. The sessions also included a question and answer session. There were 590 students in attendance.

In December, Patrol West hosted a media briefing to provide education and prevention information pertaining to impaired drivers. Members of the media were allowed to wear the DWEyes (goggles) and were exposed to the SFST process officers use in the field when dealing with impaired drivers.

Officer Tucker collected over 700 Christmas cards for the troops overseas in the military to send to their relatives.

## *Davis-Moore Dealerships Support WPD Mounted Unit with New Truck*



It's big and white and brand new. It even sports a new look for the Wichita Police Department. "It" is the WPD Mounted Unit's new truck, a one-ton Dodge "dually" donated to the Unit by Davis-Moore Auto Group.

"This truck was badly needed. It's greatly appreciated," said Mounted Unit Sergeant Brian Sigman. "Our old truck was in very bad shape, so much so in fact that it had become very undependable in recent months. This gift from Davis-Moore is a great example of how businesses can team up with WPD to help not only the

Department but the community as a whole."

The truck was viewed by Davis-Moore as another way for the auto dealership group to reinforce its partnership with law enforcement and the community, said Davis-Moore's Stuart Ray.

"We're proud to be able to support the Mounted Unit. The work it does upholds the finest traditions of law enforcement. We feel the new truck is a clear demonstration of our respect for the Unit and our support of the Wichita Police Department."

The truck also gives the public a sneak peak of the new livery being added to WPD patrol units later this year, said Patrol West Bureau Commander Captain Joe Dessenberger.

"Although the new truck is solid white, our new patrol cars will be black and white. The striping on the truck matches the livery that will be applied to our cars beginning later this year," he said. Dessenberger, who recently moved from Special Operation to Patrol West, was involved in working with Davis-Moore on the new truck.

The Mounted Unit's new vehicle will be officially rolled out at a ceremony at Davis-Moore in the coming weeks.



## **FOP teams up with the Wichita Thunder Hockey Team**



To benefit the Law Enforcement Memorial, the Fraternal Order of Police and the Wichita Thunder Hockey Team are providing discount tickets to their home game at 7:05 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 2, at the Kansas Coliseum against the Rocky Mountain Rage. The discount tickets are available for \$10.00 and a portion will go towards the Memorial. The more tickets that are sold the higher percentage the FOP will receive.



## Police Department Wins

It's official. The Wichita Police Department is the winner of the "2006 Battle of the Badges" blood drive benefiting the American Red Cross. And, Red Cross officials say the drive was very successful.

For the past 12 years, the Battle of the Badges has been held to boost blood supplies, which typically run low during the Christmas holidays.

In all, WPD officers, WFD firefighters and their friends donated 962 pints of blood during the three-week drive. Red Cross officials say that's 300 pints more than they usually collect in an average three-week period. WPD officers and their family members and friends donated 516 pints, 70 pints more than firefighters. What's just as important is the fact, say Red Cross officials, that of the 962 pints donated, first-time donors gave 90 pints.

The 2006 Battle of the Badges blood drive began on December 10<sup>th</sup> and ended on January 1, 2007. It was promoted by Power 93.9 air personalities Hailey and Lucas who held live remote broadcasts from the Patrol North Bureau on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Officer A.J. Warthen stands by while Sergeant John Bemby donates blood.



## Chief Williams takes the Celebrity Cookie Challenge



The *Celebrity Cookie Challenge* officially launched the 2007 Girl Scout Cookie Sale. The event paired eleven local celebrities with Girl Scouts on stage to make creative desserts using Girl Scout Cookies and other ingredients, which were kept secret until the competition.

The teams were given 10 to 15 minutes to be as creative as they could be with the desserts before a panel of Girl Scouts judged them. Chief Williams was partnered with Kimberly Olson and together they created an ice cream dessert.

The *Celebrity Cookie Challenge* is a light-hearted and fun competition, but it does have a concrete purpose: to give Girl Scouts of all ages a chance to meet and speak with prominent individuals in the community who embody the very ideals of Girl Scouts. More than 600 Girl Scouts and their families attended the event held at the Beech Activity Center. Before the competition the Girls Scouts practiced their cookie selling techniques in a mock neighborhood block, complete with houses, with the celebrities filling the roles as customers.



Chief Norman Williams and Girl Scout Kimberly Olson create a cookie dessert



## Behind the scenes ...

### Two Families, Patrol East Officers Have a Happy Christmas Season



For many, Christmas is a time of year when they gather together with friends and family to celebrate the season. But, for some the season presents challenges that can seem almost overwhelming. This past Christmas, one family new to Wichita and another facing serious medical problems came together to celebrate the holiday, and in the process made some new friends on the Wichita Police Department.

Patrol East Officer Mike Lloyd was contacted by Gretchen Freeman at the Stratford East apartments about a family that had recently moved to Wichita from Bulgaria. The father, who had been an aerospace engineer in his home country, was not able to find work in Wichita. For the husband and his wife and their two children, Simon and Margaritha, things looked bleak.

The second family to come to the attention of the Patrol East officers was that of Faith Hemlock, a single parent, and her 12-year-old son. Faith, who is the sole supporter of her family, had recently been diagnosed with a brain tumor and was in chemotherapy treatment for her illness.

Through hard work and resourcefulness, officers were able to provide Christmas for the two families thanks to the help of some concerned citizens and businesses. Those helping out included the Eastborough Police Department, Target Stores, Goodwill Industries, Dillon's Stores, Ribbitt Computers, Dollar General Stores, Mandy Wiemeyer (a stylist at Salon Naughty and daughter of Lt. Clark Wiemeyer), Sears, Crazy Jay's Bed Shop, Heartland Community Church, Dillard's Stores, The Bicycle X-change, Healing Waters, Twigs, Seveta's, Quik Trip and Wal-Mart.

Those in Patrol East who helped on the project included Lieutenant Clark Wiemeyer and Officers Mike Lloyd, Valerie Shirkey, Brandon Lenzi, Fongvilay Phommachanh, John Ryan, Daniel Oblinger, Steven Jerrell, Justin Whyte and John Bogle.



**Front row: Stanislava Kantocheva, Gretchen Freeman, Officer Oblinger, Mrs. Atanasova, Margaritha Atanasov, Mr. Atanasov, Officer Whyte.**

**Back row: Officers Lloyd, Bogle, Phommachanh, Jerrell, Lenzie and Hinnners**



## Patrol West officers spread Christmas cheer to six families

Shortly before Christmas, Officer Maris was contacted by an individual who wanted to sponsor a family for Christmas and offered to donate \$200 toward the effort. Officer Maris knew of a family that could use some assistance and she also inquired with the rest of the team to determine if officers knew of other families needing help. Officer Baker also knew of a family. They went out to purchase gifts for the two families. While shopping at Target, the officers were approached by a woman whose son had been collecting money at his Christmas light display and they wanted to donate that money to the cause also. Word continued to spread and more people wanted to donate, which left the officers in an unusual situation of having more money to spend than they had families needing help. So the officers contacted their schools and located other families needing help. The gifts were purchased and wrapped by the officers and delivered on December 21<sup>st</sup> by the officers, assisted by Officer Brad Haught, who dressed in a Santa suit. They also purchased and delivered food for the families, a few days later. The entire Patrol West Community Policing team, along with numerous beat officers, worked to make the project a success. Ultimately, six families received gifts and food.

## Patrol North helps feed family of nine

In December Officer Jones was contacted by a representative of the Health Department and asked if there was a family in need that they could sponsor for the holidays. Officer Jones was aware of a single mother with eight children who was struggling financially.

Both the Health Department and Officer Jones were able to obtain enough groceries to last her for two months and \$500 cash to help buy presents. Officer Jones,



as an early Christmas surprise, presented it to her and her children. What was nice about this surprise was that due to a clerical error the family had

not received food stamps for the month and had no food in the house. They were getting by on food from school and the Lord's Diner.

## *Patrol South officers replace stolen Christmas gifts*

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, Officer Manual worked a burglary where the victim, Ms. Smith, reported that unknown suspects made entry into her residence stealing household items, such as food, her telephone, DVD player and all of her children's Christmas gifts. Ms. Smith informed Officer Manual that she was unable to replace the Christmas gifts, due to an illness that has left her in a wheelchair at times. Officer Manual contacted the Wal-Mart, 501 E. Pawnee, who graciously agreed to donate/replace the gifts that were stolen from Ms. Smith's home. The gifts consisted of clothing for Ms. Smith's three girls, ages 3-13, along with toys, a tricycle and 2 bicycles.

## Thanks from Wichita Children's Home

Patrol North officers collected a total of 107 items for the Wichita Children's Home. Donated items included alarm clocks, Barbie dolls, bath sets, books, bubbles, games, paint sets, tea sets and teddy bears.





## *Officers Help Family of Slain Wichita Woman*

In early December, Angela Durant became Wichita's latest homicide victim when she was killed in her home on South Laura. That tragic event was compounded by the fact that she left behind three young children whose lives had been shattered.

One of the officers who responded to the original call was Jessie Cornwell. Once he completed his duties of assisting homicide detectives in locating witnesses and identifying a suspect in the case, Cornwell began talking with his wife, Officer Shanna Cornwell, about the plight of the children.



Jessie Cornwell

Since Christmas was only three weeks away, the two officers decided to enroll the children in the Christmas Crusade. When they learned the deadline had passed for enrollment, they took matters into their own hands and decided to adopt the children for Christmas.

Jessie and Shanna contacted Dillon's, Wal-Mart and Toys-R-Us asking if there were donations they could spare. The retailers came through with donations of cash, toys, food and diapers for the children.

Once the gifts were wrapped and ready to deliver, the Cornwells gathered their own children and went to surprise the family on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Lt. Chris Bannister spoke highly of their dedication to duty and their fellow citizens when he wrote, "Their offer of generosity was well received and speaks highly of their character and compassion. Even more impressive is the fact this was all done without any fanfare or expectation of recognition."

*If you have items for the WPD newsletter, please submit them to  
gbassham@wichita.gov,  
or call 268-4340.*

*Coming up in January:  
Chief Williams 2006 year-end review*

